

In Re Application Of:

C. C. Gaydos;

R. S. Fortuna

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**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Canceled).
2. (Canceled).
3. (Canceled).
4. (Canceled).
5. (Currently Amended) The railcar hatch cover hinge structure according to Claim + 8, wherein said universal adapter comprises one of a plurality of apertured pieces, with each apertured piece being releasably engageable with said hinge structure in a manner inhibiting rotation of said apertured piece relative to said hinge structure.
6. (Currently Amended) The railcar hatch cover hinge structure according to Claim + 8, wherein said universal adapter comprises one of a plurality of modular inserts, and with ~~an~~ the second end ~~portion~~ of said hinge structure being configured to releasably accommodate any one of said plurality of modular inserts in non-rotatable relation relative to said hinge structure.

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7. (Currently Amended) The railcar hatch cover hinge structure according to Claim 6, wherein ~~another~~ said first end ~~portion~~ of said hinge structure has a generally planar configuration to facilitate attachment of said hinge structure to a railcar hatch cover.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Hinge~~ Railcar hatch cover hinge structure for ~~pivotaly connecting~~ mounting a railcar hatch cover to apertured stationary brackets on a railcar while allowing said hatch cover to pivotally move relative to coaming extending about a through defined by said railcar, said hatch cover hinge structure including a first end configured for attachment to toward one side of the hatch cover, and a universal adapter arranged operably secured toward a second end of said hatch cover hinge structure and in laterally spaced relation from said one side of said hatch cover, said universal adapter defining multiple openings disposed in spaced, generally parallel relation relative to each other, and with at least one of said multiple openings in said adapter being generally aligned with openings defined by said stationary brackets to provide an axis of rotation for said hatch cover hinge structure which is spacially fixed relative to the coaming on said railcar whereby permitting pivotal attachment mounting of said hinge structure and thereby said hatch cover to different brackets on the railcar having hinge pins arranged at different locations relative to coaming on the railcar.

9. (Currently Amended) The railcar hatch cover hinge structure according to Claim 8,

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wherein said adapter defines a first opening and a second opening, with said first and second openings being offset relative to each other.

10. (Currently Amended) The railcar hatch cover hinge structure according to Claim 9, wherein said adapter is configured such that an axis defined by said first opening is positioned vertically and in laterally offset relation from an axis defined by said second opening.

11. (Currently Amended) The railcar hatch cover hinge structure according to Claim 9, wherein each opening defined by said adapter is configured with a closed and generally circular marginal edge, and with the closed and generally circular marginal edge of said first opening having a different size than the closed and generally circular marginal edge of said second opening.

12. (Currently Amended) A The hinge structure according to Claim 8, wherein said for pivotally connecting a hatch cover to a railcar, said hinge structure including a first end configured for attachment to the hatch cover, and a universal adapter comprises arranged toward a second end of said hinge structure, said universal adapter comprising an apertured piece that is interchangeable with other apertured pieces, with each apertured piece defining a series of openings arranged in different patterns relative to each other and with said openings being

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disposed in spaced, generally parallel relation relative to each other whereby permitting pivotal attachment of said hinge structure and thereby said hatch cover to brackets on the railcar having hinge pins arranged at specified locations relative to coaming on the railcar, and wherein each apertured piece is releasably engageable with said hinge structure in a manner inhibiting relative rotation therebetween.

13. (Original) The hinge structure according to Claim 12, wherein each apertured piece is configured as a modular insert which is adapted to be releasably accommodated within a socket defined by and toward a second end of said hinge structure.

14. (Original) The hinge structure according to Claim 12, wherein each modular insert and said socket defined by said hinge structure are configured to inhibit relative rotational movement therebetween.

15. (Original) The hinge structure according to Claim 12, wherein each opening defined by the apertured pieces is configured with a closed, generally circular marginal edge, and wherein the openings in different apertured pieces are disposed in different patterns relative to each other.

16. (Original) The hinge structure according to Claim 12, wherein each opening defined

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by the apertured pieces is configured with a closed, generally circular marginal edge, and wherein a distance across the marginal edge defining the majority of openings in the apertured pieces are of differing sizes relative to each other.

17. Canceled.

18. Canceled.

19. Canceled.

20. Canceled.

21. Canceled.

22. Canceled.

23. Canceled.

24. Canceled.

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25. Canceled.

26. Canceled.

27. (New) The railcar hatch cover hinge structure according to Claim 8, wherein said universal adapter includes first and second axially spaced and aligned inserts secured toward the second end of said hinge structure.

28. (New) The hinge structure according to Claim 27, wherein the second end of the hinge structure is configured with a socket for accommodating said first and second axially inserts in axially spaced and predetermined relation relative to each other.

29. (New) The hinge structure according to Claim 27, wherein each insert defines first and second openings therein, and wherein the first and second openings in the first insert axially align with the first and second openings in the second insert after said first and second inserts are secured toward the second end of said hinge structure.

30. (New) The hinge structure according to Claim 27, wherein each insert is configured to be secured toward the second end of the hinge structure in a predetermined relation relative to the

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reminder of the hinge structure.